

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) strongly **supports Senate Bill 599**, which seeks to prohibit discrimination in housing based on immigration status. As an advisory body to the Governor and the Legislature, OCHA advocates for policies that advance equity and justice for Hispanic Oregonians and all marginalized communities. Housing is a social determinant of health, directly impacting economic stability, educational attainment, and overall well-being.

Oregon's Latino and immigrant communities continue to face significant barriers to secure and stable housing, often experiencing discrimination due to their real or perceived immigration status. By prohibiting landlords from inquiring about or disclosing immigration status, SB 599 ensures that all Oregonians—regardless of background—have fair access to housing opportunities. Stable housing contributes to better health outcomes, reduced stress, and greater community stability.

Furthermore, housing insecurity exacerbates health disparities in communities of color. Many Latino families in Oregon experience overcrowding, unsafe living conditions, or are forced into substandard housing due to discriminatory practices. These conditions contribute to poorer health outcomes, including higher rates of chronic illness and mental health stressors. Addressing housing discrimination is an essential step toward ensuring that all residents have the foundation they need to thrive.

OCHA urges the Legislature to pass SB 599 as a necessary step toward housing equity and the protection of immigrant communities. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to fair housing for all Oregonians.

Respectfully submitted,

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

